Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

Screening for Appropriate Assessment

Determination on Grazing Exclusion Fencing measures within Cloonee and Inchiquin Loughs, Uragh Wood SAC in accordance with Regulation 42A EC (Birds and Natural) Habitats Regulations 2011-2021

Prepared by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage
npws.ie

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1. Introduction

This determination on Screening for Appropriate Assessment (AA) has been made by the Ecological Assessment Unit (EAU) of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) in accordance with Regulation 42A(8) of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011-2021 ('the 2011 Regulations").[1]

On the 10th March 2026, in accordance with the requirements of Regulation 42A(3) of the 2011-2021 Regulations, the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage ('the Minister') furnished the EAU with a request for a Screening for Appropriate Assessment (AA) determination for proposed grazing exclusion fencing measures within the Cloonee and Inchiquin Loughs, Uragh Wood SAC [Site code: 001342]. Hereafter referred to as "the project".

The EAU have evaluated and analysed the information contained in the referred to above documents and location maps provided and carried out a determination. The purpose of this document is to provide a record and an audit trail of the EAU reasoned thinking in view of best scientific information and the Conservation Objectives of European Sites. This determination does not constitute consent or authorisation for the proposed works. The proponent is responsible for ensuring that all other necessary consents, licences, or permissions are obtained, including, where relevant, a declaration under Section 5 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended).

[1] As inserted by Regulation 7 of the European Union (Birds and Natural Habitats) (Amendment).

2. Background

Pursuant to Regulation 42A(1) of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations, 2011 (S.I. 477 of 2011), a Screening for AA is required to be carried out on the project. AA is a process required under Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive. Article 6(3) is transposed in Ireland by the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (S.I. No. 477 of 2011), as amended, and by Part XAB of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended.

All plans and projects which are not directly connected with or necessary to the management of a European Site, but which either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, are likely to have a significant effect on a “European Site”, require an AA of these effects to determine if they will adversely affect the integrity of these sites. The proposed conservation measures are considered to fall under the requirements of AA as applied to all plans and projects.

The Screening for AA process scrutinises the plan or project to determine if there is potential for likely significant effects either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, on a European Site. European Sites are part of the Natura 2000 network and include those designated as Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), Candidate SACs (cSACs) or Special Protection Areas (SPA). This Screening for Appropriate Assessment describes the outcome of this analysis in respect of the project.

3. Legislation and Guidance

This section provides details on the adopted methodology with sources of guidance and information gathered to inform the preparation of the report.

3.1. Guidance and Data Sources

- Communication from the Commission on the precautionary principle. European Commission (2000);
- European Commission. (2001) Assessment of Plans and Projects Significantly Affecting Natura 2000 Sites: Methodical Guidance on the Provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC;
- European Commission. (2007) Guidance Document on Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC;
- Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government. (2010) Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland - Guidance for Planning Authorities;
- Appropriate Assessment under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive; Guidance for Planning Authorities. Circular NPW 1/10 and PSSP 2/10;
- European Commission. (2018) Managing Natura 2000 Sites: The Provision of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC;
- Office of the Planning Regulator. (2021) Practice Note PN01 - AA Screening for Development Management;
- Official Journal of the European Union. (2021) Methodological guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC (Volume 64; 2021/C 437/01);
- Forestry Standards Manual (2024). Department of Agriculture, Food & the Marine. Ireland.

This report is based on review of desktop data. Sources of information utilised for this report and accessed during March 2026 include the following:

- National Parks & Wildlife Service (NPWS) Designations Viewer[2]; and,
- National Biodiversity Data Centre (NBDC) Maps[3].

[2] National Parks & Wildlife Service Designation Viewer. Accessed at ArcGIS Web Application 24/03/2026

[3] National Biodiversity Data Centre Maps. Accessed at Maps - Biodiversity Maps (biodiversityireland.ie) 24/03/2026

3.2. Legislative Background

According to the EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) and the EU Birds Directive (79/409/EEC), Member States are required to establish a Natura 2000 network of sites of highest biodiversity importance for rare and threatened habitats and species across the EU.

In Ireland, the Natura 2000 network of European sites comprises SACs, candidate SACs and SPAs.

SACs are selected for the conservation of Annex I habitats (including priority types which are in danger of disappearance) and Annex II species (other than birds). SPAs are selected for the conservation of Annex I birds and all migratory birds and their habitats. The Annex habitats and species, for which each site is selected, are the Qualifying Interests (QI) for SACs and Special Conservation Interests (SCI) for SPAs of each site. Conservation Objectives for the site are defined for these QI or SCI.

A key requirement of the Habitats Directive is that the effects of any plan or project, which is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of a European Site, but which alone, or in combination with, other plans or projects, are likely to have a significant effect on a European Site, should be assessed before any decision is made to allow that plan or project to proceed. The obligation to undertake a screening for AA, and if necessary, an AA, derives from Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive and both involve a number of steps and tests that need to be applied in sequential order.

Article 6(3) is concerned with the strict protection of sites, while Article 6(4) is the procedure for allowing derogation from this strict protection in certain restricted circumstances.

Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive states:

> "Any plan or project not directly connected with, or necessary to, the management of the site but likely to have a significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans and projects, shall be subject to appropriate assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site's conservation objectives. In the light of the conclusions of the assessment of the implications for the site and subject to the provisions of paragraph 4, the competent national authorities shall agree to the plan or project only having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site concerned and if appropriate, after having obtained the opinion of the general public".

Article 6(4) states:

> "If, in spite of a negative assessment of the implications for the site and in the absence of alternative solutions, a plan or project must nevertheless be carried out for imperative reasons of overriding public interest, including those of social or economic nature, the Member State shall take all compensatory measures necessary to ensure that the overall coherence of Natura 2000 is protected. It shall inform the Commission of the compensatory measures adopted.
>
> Where the site concerned hosts a priority natural habitat type and/or a priority species, the only considerations which may be raised are those relating to human health or public safety, to beneficial consequences of primary importance for the environment or, further to an opinion from the Commission, to other imperative reasons of overriding public interest."

The competent authority is required to carry out a screening for AA, and if necessary, an AA as required by Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive. If the competent authority determines that the plan or project will adversely affect the integrity of a European site, it may only authorise that plan or project by following the Article 6(4) procedure.

The Article 6(3) and 6(4) procedures are outlined as follows:

Stage 1 - Screening for Appropriate Assessment – to assess, in view of best scientific knowledge, if the project or plan, individually or in combination with another plan or project is likely to have a significant effect on the Natura 2000 site.

Stage 2 - Appropriate Assessment – This is required if it cannot be excluded, on the basis of objective information, that the project or plan, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, will have a significant effect on a Natura 2000 site. The AA must include a final determination by the competent authority as to whether or not a proposed project would adversely affect the integrity of a Natura 2000 site. In order to reach a final determination, the competent authority must undertake examination, analysis and evaluation, followed by findings, conclusions and a final determination. The appropriate assessment must contain complete, precise and definitive findings and conclusions, and may not have lacunae or gaps.

Stage 3 – Assessment of alternative solutions - the process which examines alternative ways of achieving the objectives of the project or plan that avoid adverse impacts on the integrity of the Natura 2000 site.

Stage 4 - Assessment where no alternative solutions exist and where adverse impacts remain - an assessment of compensatory measures where, in the light of an assessment of imperative reasons of overriding public interest (IROPI), it is deemed that the project or plan should proceed.

Under Regulation 42A(1) of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations, 2011-2021 (S.I. 293 of 2021), the Ecological Assessment Unit is the competent authority in relation to screening for AA of projects and plans (such as the proposed conservation measures) which the Minister proposes to undertake or adopt.

4. Overview of the Project

Cloonee and Inchiquin Loughs, Uragh Wood SAC (Figure 1) is located in a large U-shaped glacial valley on the northern side of the Caha Mountain range, to the west of Kenmare, Co. Kerry. It encompasses a series of four large lakes, some smaller mountain lakes, several inter-connecting rivers and streams, and the oak woodlands at Uragh Wood. The Cloonee Lough system comprises three lowland oligotrophic lakes. The lowest of these is situated close to the Kenmare River estuary and is connected to the middle and upper lakes via the Beal-na-Shannin River. The upper Cloonee Lough is linked by the Ameen River to Inchiquin Lough.

Uragh Wood, which is designated as a Nature Reserve, is situated on the south-west edge of Inchiquin Lough on craggy ground which rises steeply from 50 m to 200 m. Above the wood the land rises to nearly 500m at Knockreagh Mountain. The site also includes two smaller lakes on the hillside, Lough Napeasta and Lough Cummeenadillure, to encompass the catchment area for the lakes below. The underlying geology of the area is Old Red Sandstone.

The project will aim to install 2.5km of sheep fencing along the southwest boundary (Figure 3) of the Uragh Wood Nature Reserve in order to exclude grazing sheep and feral goats which are contributing to the overgrazing of the woodland understory.

4.1. Purpose

Sheep and goats were recorded on 85 (sheep) and 123 (Feral Goat) separate incidences within the woodland in 2024 by camera traps. Excluding these 2 species of grazer will reduce the herbivore number in the woodland and allow for a greater amount of seedling regeneration and sapling growth. This will contribute to achieving favourable conservation status of the Old Sessile Oak Woods within the site that is a Qualifying Interest of the SAC.

Habitats Directive (Article 6.2) obliges Member States to take appropriate steps to avoid the deterioration of natural habitats and the significant disturbance of the species for which a site has been designated. In this context 'taking appropriate steps' means for the Minister to adopt the necessary legal and/or contractual measures to make sure that the deterioration of the natural habitats for which the Cloonee and Inchiquin Loughs, Uragh Wood SAC Special Area of Conservation has been designated is avoided.

5. Project Description

The proposed fencing installation for exclusion of grazers will follow the best available techniques and utilise materials as recommended by Department of Agriculture Food

and the Marine Forestry Standards[4]. The wire used must be to the following International Standards:

- I.S. EN 10223-1 Steel wire and wire products for fences – Part 1: Zinc and zinc-alloy coated steel barbed wire.

- I.S. EN 10223-5 Steel wire and wire products for fences – Part 5: Steel wire woven hinged joint and knotted mesh fencing.

- I.S. 126 Galvanised Fencing Wire.

- Rectangular mesh netting or chain-link fencing for sheep should not exceed 15 cm x 20 cm (6 inch x 8 inch).

- Plain wire of single strand mild steel should be 4 mm in diameter.

Fencing will adhere to the Irish Standard 436:2007 within which a number of technical specifications include:

- permitted timber species; post sizes and diameters; timber preservatives; pre-treatment drying requirements; labelling and traceability of the end product.

A full breakdown of technical specifications for forest fencing is included in Supplementary Information Section 12 (Figure 4).

Survey plots have been established across the woodland, these will be monitored annually along with static photo points to assess the rate of regeneration of seedlings etc. within the woodland.

[4] Forestry Standards Manual (2024). Department of Agriculture, Food & the Marine. Ireland. https://assets.gov.ie/static/documents/1._Forestry_Standards_Manual_040625.pdf

6. Part 1: Necessary conservation measures

Answer these questions if the activity is "directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site". Otherwise go to Part 2.

a). List the European site(s) and the relevant Conservation Objectives (include version number of the Conservation Objective).

Cloonee and Inchiquin Loughs, Uragh Wood SAC [Site code: 001342].

NPWS (2019) Conservation Objectives: Cloonee and Inchiquin Loughs, Uragh Wood SAC 001342. Version 1. Accessed 24th March 2026.

Available at: https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/protected-sites/conservation_objectives/CO001342.pdf

Qualifying Interests

- Kerry Slug (*Geomalacus maculosus*) [1024]
- Lesser Horseshoe Bat (*Rhinolophus hipposideros*) [1303]
- Slender Naiad (*Najas flexilis*) [1833]
- Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (Littorelletalia uniflorae) [3110]
- Northern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix* [4010]
- European dry heaths [4030]
- Killarney Fern (*Vandenboschia speciose*) [6985]
- Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8220]
- Old sessile oak woods with *Ilex* and *Blechnum* in the British Isles [91A0]

Conservation Objectives for Qualifying Interests.

Kerry Slug *Geomalacus maculosus* [1024]

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Kerry Slug (*Geomalacus maculosus*) in Cloonee and Inchiquin Loughs, Uragh Wood SAC, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

- Distribution: occupied 1km grid squares.
- Habitat extent: area of blanket bog and heath with sandstone outcrops, woodland area.
- Habitat quality: woodland, non-native invasive species.

Lesser Horseshoe Bat *Rhinolophus hipposideros* [1303]

To restore the favourable conservation condition of Lesser Horseshoe Bat (*Rhinolophus hipposideros*) in Cloonee and Inchiquin Loughs, Uragh Wood SAC, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

- Population per roost.
- Summer roosts.
- Auxiliary roosts.
- Extent of potential foraging habitat.
- Linear features.
- Light pollution.

Slender Naiad *Najas flexilis* [1833]

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Slender Naiad (*Najas flexilis*) in Cloonee and Inchiquin Loughs, Uragh Wood SAC, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

- Population extent.
- Population depth.
- Population viability.
- Population abundance.
- Species distribution.
- Habitat extent.
- Hydrological regime: water level fluctuations.
- Lake substratum quality.

- Water quality.
- Acidification status.
- Water colour.
- Associated species.
- Fringing habitat: area and condition.

Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (Littorelletalia uniflorae) [3110]

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (Littorelletalia uniflorae) in Cloonee and Inchiquin Loughs, Uragh Wood SAC, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

- Habitat area.
- Habitat distribution.
- Vegetation composition: typical species, characteristic zonation.
- Vegetation distribution: maximum depth.
- Hydrological regime: water level fluctuations.
- Lake substratum quality.
- Water quality: transparency, nutrients, phytoplankton biomass, phytoplankton composition, attached algal biomass, macrophyte status.
- Acidification status.
- Water colour.
- Dissolved organic carbon (DOC).
- Turbidity.
- Fringing habitat: area and condition.

Northern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix* [4010]

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix in Cloonee and Inchiquin Loughs, Uragh Wood SAC, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

- Habitat area.
- Habitat distribution.
- Ecosystem function: soil nutrients.
- Community diversity.
- Vegetation composition: cross-leaved heath, positive indicator species, lichens and bryophytes, ericoid species and crowberry, dwarf shrub species, negative indicator species, non-native species, native trees and shrubs, bracken, soft rush.
- Vegetation structure: *Sphagnum* condition, signs of browsing, burning.
- Physical structure: disturbed bare ground, drainage.
- Indicators of local distinctiveness.

European dry heaths [4030]

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of European dry heaths in Cloonee and Inchiquin Loughs, Uragh Wood SAC, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

- Habitat area.
- Habitat distribution.
- Ecosystem function: soil nutrients.
- Community diversity.
- Vegetation composition: lichens and bryophytes, number of positive indicator species, cover of positive indicator species, dwarf shrub composition, negative indicator species, non-native species, native trees and shrubs, bracken, soft rush.
- Vegetation structure: senescent ling, signs of browsing, burning, growth phases of ling.
- Physical structure: disturbed bare ground.

- Indicators of local distinctiveness.

Killarney Fern *Vandenboschia speciose* [6985]

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Killarney Fern (Vandenboschia speciosa) in Cloonee and Inchiquin Loughs, Uragh Wood SAC, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

- Distribution.
- Number of populations.
- Number of colonies.
- Population: lifecycle stage.
- Population size: area of occupancy, living sporophyte fronds.
- Population structure: young and unfurling fronds, fertile fronds, juvenile sporophyte fronds emerging from gametophytes.
- Habitat extent.
- Hydrological conditions: wet/damp microhabitats, relative humidity, desiccated fronds.
- Light levels: shading.
- Woodland canopy cover.
- Invasive species.

Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8220]

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation in Cloonee and Inchiquin Loughs, Uragh Wood SAC, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

- Habitat area.
- Habitat distribution.
- Ecosystem function: soil nutrients.
- Vegetation composition: positive indicator species, non-native species, bracken, native trees and shrubs.

- Vegetation structure: grazing and browsing.
- Indicators of local distinctiveness.

Old sessile oak woods with *Ilex* and *Blechnum* in the British Isles [91A0]

To restore the favourable conservation condition of Old sessile oak woods with *Ilex* and *Blechnum* in the British Isles in Cloonee and Inchiquin Loughs, Uragh Wood SAC, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

- Habitat area.
- Habitat distribution.
- Woodland size.
- Woodland structure: cover and height, community diversity and extent, natural regeneration, dead wood, veteran trees, indicators of local distinctiveness, indicators of overgrazing.
- Vegetation composition: native tree cover, typical species, negative indicator species.

b). State how this activity furthers the Conservation Objective(s)

Under Article 6 of the EU Habitats Directive, DHLGH is required to ensure the favourable conservation status of all Annex I habitats and Annex II species within SACs. Un-controlled grazing pressures are known to negatively alter native woodland habitat, the implementation of the grazer exclusion measures within the site as outlined above will directly contribute to the Site Specific Conservation Objectives. Notably:

Old sessile oak woods with *Ilex* and *Blechnum* in the British Isles [91A0]

- **Habitat area.**
- **Woodland structure: cover and height, community diversity and extent, natural regeneration, indicators of local distinctiveness, indicators of overgrazing.**

In the absence of the project, the Conservation Objectives for Cloonee and Inchiquin Loughs, Uragh Wood SAC would not be achieved as there would be continued highly detrimental impacts of over-grazing, dramatically reducing levels of natural regeneration and native species richness.

The project will be beneficial to maintaining and working towards achieving favourable conservation condition of woodland habitats in the site and the typical species of these protected habitat types.

c). Does this activity have the potential to impact negatively on any Conservation Objective (CO), Qualifying Interest (QI)/Special Conservation Interest (SCI) for this or any other European site?

The potential effect of human disturbance on QI while installing the proposed fencing is considered negligible, given the short-term duration and specific targeted location of measures.

There is not considered to be any potential for disturbance beyond a *de minimus* level on QI for which the Cloonee and Inchiquin Loughs, Uragh Wood SAC is designated.

The effect on European Sites and their Qualifying Interests/Special Conservation Interests within a defined Zone of Influence of the project was assessed using expert opinion. No significant adverse impacts on the QI or SCI features of any other SAC or SPA are anticipated.

Yes ☐ No ☑

d). Are there aspects of this activity which are NOT directly connected with the management of the site?

Yes ☐ No ☑

If the answer to EITHER of the above questions is **Yes** a Screening for AA is required, go to Part 2.

If the answer to BOTH questions is **No** go to Part 5.

7. Part 2: Identification of European Sites within the Potential Zone of Influence of proposed activities

List all European sites which may be affected by this activity because they are linked by an ecological pathway. If the site has a second European designation (SAC, SPA) this also needs to be considered.

8. Part 3: Assess the likelihood of significant effects

Provide this information for **each site** listed in Part 2.

List the QI/SCIs for the site(s), their current conservation condition and the Site Specific Conservation Objectives (SSCO) for that QI/SCI. Then answer the questions about the impact on that QI/SCI.

Tick all the boxes below which may apply.

Your answer will determine if the activity is likely to have a (negative) effect on this QI/SCI. Negative effects may arise because of the activity's location within the site; its proximity to the QI/SCI or the size of the land take involved; the abstraction of water or minerals; emissions or waste arising; the types of transport or machinery being used; the length of time involved or seasonality of the work.

a). There is likely to be a reduction in the area of QI/SCI habitat ☐

b). The physical/chemical quality of the environment is likely to be changed in a way which may cause the deterioration of the QI/SCI habitat (e.g. applying lime to an acidic soil) ☐

c). The structure of the ecological community is likely to be altered (e.g. through altered species composition) in a way which will have negative impact on the QI/SCI. ☐

d). A QI/SCI species is likely to be disturbed (e.g. through noise, vibrations) ☐

e). The population size, characteristics or reproductive success of a QI/SCI species is likely to be changed either directly or indirectly (e.g. lighting close to a bat roost entrance) ☐

f). QI/SCI species or habitats are likely to be more vulnerable to change or less resilient to external change (e.g. to flooding, fire or drought) ☐

g). There are likely to be effects on other species /habitats (not a QI/SCI for this site) which are ecologically linked with this QI/SCI and, as a consequence, there are likely to be negative effects on this QI/SCI (e.g. the impacts on geese which are the SCI when their non-QI feeding areas are damaged). ☐

h). This activity will cause a deterioration in the conservation condition of this QI/SCI. ☐

i). There are likely to be other ecological effects not listed above which are likely to have a significant effect on the QI/SCI. ☐

Explain the effects:

_____

If you have ticked a box for any QI/SCI in any of the sites affected by this activity the likelihood of a significant effect cannot be ruled out and the activity MUST be screened IN for AA.

9. Part 4: In Combination Effects

Is this activity likely to cause negative effects in combination with any other plan or project?

(In answering this question you should consider any other consents which have been applied for or granted. For example, other ARCs, planning consents, forestry consents, or activities authorised as part of an agreed farm or land management plan. List the plans or projects considered).

_____

_____

No ☑ **Yes** ☐ **Uncertain** ☐

If the answer is Yes or Uncertain the activity MUST be screened IN for AA. Fill in Part 5 accordingly.

10. Part 5: Findings of the Screening for AA

Screening not carried out as the activity is “directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site”. ☑

Likely significant effects are expected or uncertain.

This activity Screens **IN** and AA **is** required. ☐

Likely significant effects are NOT expected.

This activity Screens **OUT** AA **is not** required. ☐

Prepared by: Darren Ellis, Ecologist, Ecological Assessment Unit

Signed:

Date: 24th March 2026

11. Part 6: Determination

Following an analysis of the activity, the EAU determines, in accordance with Regulation 42A(8) of the 2011 Regulations, that the grazer exclusion fencing measures within Cloonee and Inchiquin Loughs, Uragh Wood SAC are entirely comprised of activities that directly support the Conservation Objectives of this European site.

It can be concluded with certainty that the project is a necessary conservation measure that is directly connected with or necessary for the management of the site.

Determined by: Laura Connolly, Ecologist, Ecological Assessment Unit

Signed:

Date: 30th March 2026

12. Supplementary Information

Figure 1. (below): Location of Cloonee and Inchiquin Loughs, Uragh Wood SAC as per the NPWS (2017) Conservation Objectives: Cloonee and Inchiquin Loughs, Uragh Wood SAC SAC 001342. Version 1. (Yellow arrow indicates project location).

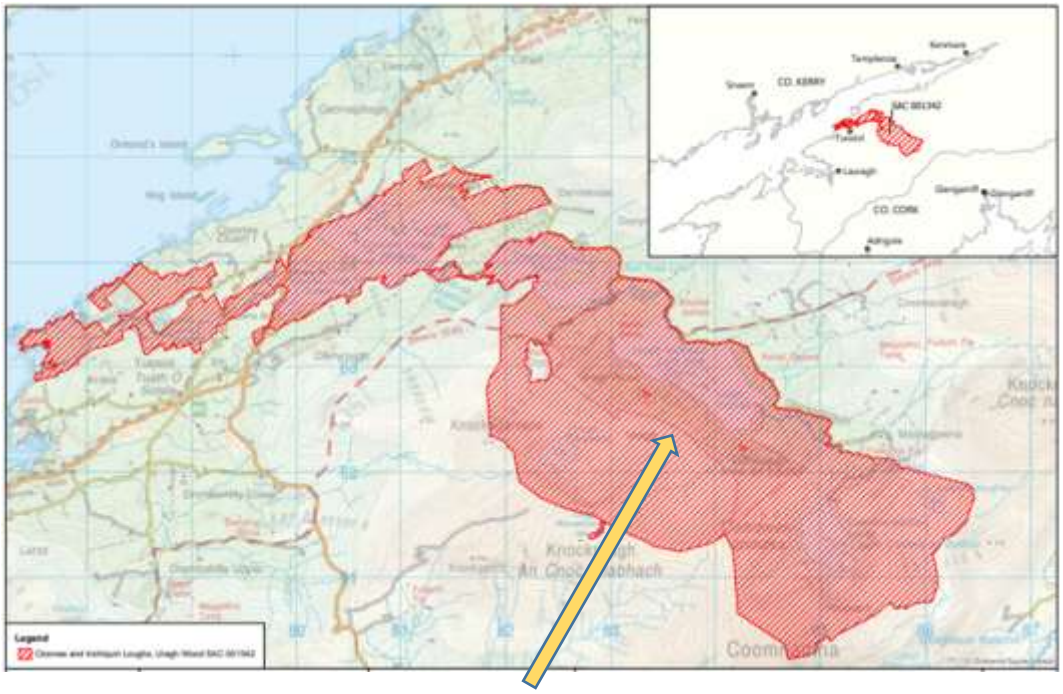

Figure 2. (below): Area of Old Sessile Oak wood with *Ilex* and *Blechnum [91A0]*

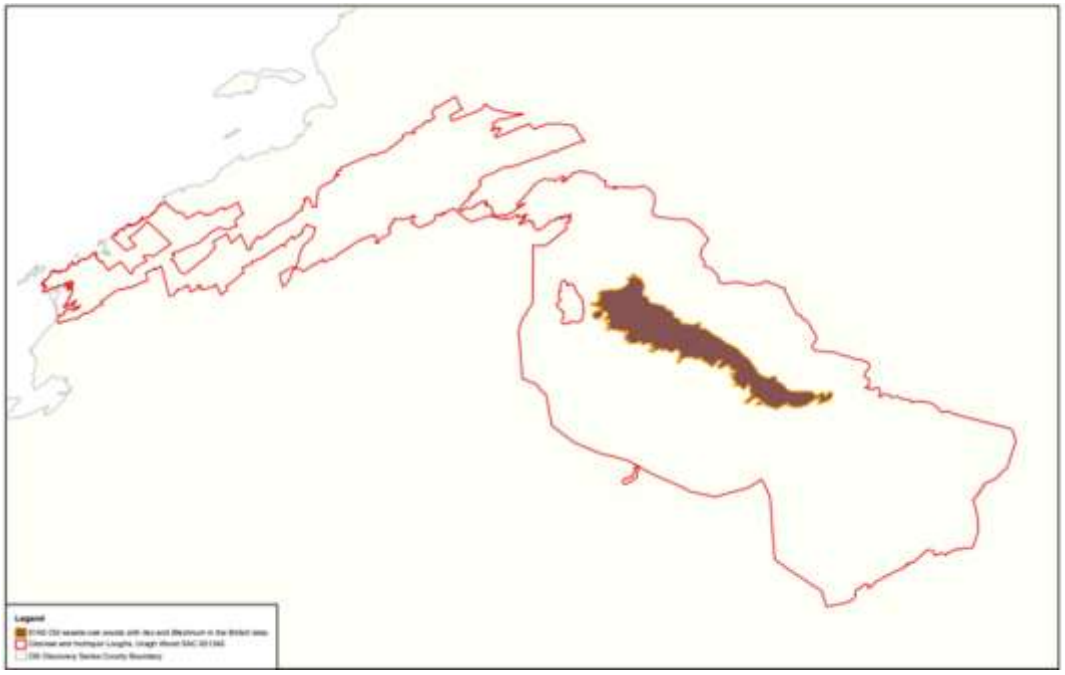

Figure 3 (below). Indicative route of proposed grazer exclusion fencing separating agricultural land from Uragh Wood Nature Reserve within Cloonee and Inchiquin Loughs, Uragh Wood SAC .

Figure 4 (below) Excerpt from the DAFM Forestry Standards Manual outlining technical specifications for forest fencing.

Table 12.1 Specifications for forest fencing
(This table should be read in conjunction with IS436: 2007).

Fence Type	Wire and Netting	Intermediate posts (stakes)	Turning posts	Strainer posts
Cattle	Barbed wire (Plain wire along public roads, etc.) Number of strands: 3 Distance between strands: 18 – 23 cm Top strand not less than 1 metre from the ground	Round stake: Length: 1.5 m (+/– 30 mm) Top diameter: 10 cm (+/– 3 mm)	Turning posts should be provided where there is a change in the angle of the fence but where this angle is less than 30°. Length: 1.8 m Top diameter: 12.5 cm Distance apart: As required	Strainers should be provided at the beginning and end of every length of fencing, at gaps or openings, at every change of direction where the angle is greater than 30°, and to accommodate any significant change in gradient. Length: 2.1 m Top diameter: 17.5 cm Usual distance apart: 100 m Strut: Length: 1.8 m Diameter: 10 cm
Cattle / Sheep	Ordinary sheep netting or rectangular mesh sheep netting One strand of barbed wire Barbed wire 10 – 12.5 cm above the netting Lowest line of the sheep mesh between 50 mm and 100 mm above ground level (The use of barb wire may be waived on application where there is no long-term threat from cattle)	Split stakes: Length: 1.5 m (+/– 30 mm) Diameter: 12.5 cm (+/– 25 mm) Machined squared: Length: 1.5 m (+/– 30 mm) Top dimension: 10 cm x 10 cm (+/– 3 mm) Distance apart Mild steel: 4 m High tensile: 5 m		
Cattle / Rabbit	Rabbit netting Three strands of barbed wire One strand on top of the rabbit netting and netting stapled to barbed wire. Second strand 1.05 m above the ground. Bottom of netting turned outwards and held down with sods, stones or pegs. One strand 15 cm from the bottom			
Rabbit / Hare	Rabbit netting Two strands of barbed wire One strand on top of the rabbit netting, with the netting looped over barbs. Second strand 15 cm above rabbit netting. Bottom 15 cm of rabbit netting buried underground turned outwards and held down with sods. This will leave approximately 90 cm of rabbit netting above the ground. This will be made easier if the fence is constructed in a ploughed furrow. The rabbit wire can then be turned outwards and the plough ribbon placed back on top.			
Deer	(a). Rectangular wire mesh, 1.9 m high or two lengths of sheep wire, one over the other and secured together with staples. (b). Alternative fencing specifications/post arrangements may be approved on a case–by–case basis, on application to the Forestry Division. (For example, on very uneven terrain, on exceptionally stony ground, or where post–holes cannot be dug or augured, non–tensile suspended fencing may be approved.) Note that a strand or strands of barbed wire must not be strung along the top of the deer fence. Use plain wire instead.	Length: 3 m (driven 1 m into ground) Diameter: 12.5 cm Distance apart: 8 m	Turning posts for angles less than 30°. Length: 3.0 m Top diameter: 20 cm Distance apart: As required	H–frame only. Strut (1.8 m length, 10 cm diameter) to be fixed to strainer posts using either galvanised steel rod or rebated joint (See IS 146:2001) Length: 3 m (driven 1 m into ground) Top diameter: 20 cm Distance apart: 80 m

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